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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|-----------------|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 09/327,477      | 06/08/1999  | YASUTSUGU KURODA     | 826.1547/JDH        | 5479             |

21171 7590 07/02/2003

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WASHINGTON, DC 20005

EXAMINER

NOBAHAR, ABDULHAKIM

| ART UNIT | PAPER NUMBER |
|----------|--------------|
| 2132     | 7            |

DATE MAILED: 07/02/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

|                        |                    |  |
|------------------------|--------------------|--|
| <b>Advisory Action</b> | Application No.    | Applicant(s)   |
|                        | 09/327,477         | KURODA ET AL.  |
|                        | Examiner           | Art Unit   |
|                        | Abdulhakim Nobahar | 2132   |

--The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

THE REPLY FILED 23 June 2003 FAILS TO PLACE THIS APPLICATION IN CONDITION FOR ALLOWANCE. Therefore, further action by the applicant is required to avoid abandonment of this application. A proper reply to a final rejection under 37 CFR 1.113 may only be either: (1) a timely filed amendment which places the application in condition for allowance; (2) a timely filed Notice of Appeal (with appeal fee); or (3) a timely filed Request for Continued Examination (RCE) in compliance with 37 CFR 1.114.

PERIOD FOR REPLY [check either a) or b)]

a)  The period for reply expires 3 months from the mailing date of the final rejection.  
 b)  The period for reply expires on: (1) the mailing date of this Advisory Action, or (2) the date set forth in the final rejection, whichever is later. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of the final rejection.  
 ONLY CHECK THIS BOX WHEN THE FIRST REPLY WAS FILED WITHIN TWO MONTHS OF THE FINAL REJECTION. See MPEP 706.07(f).

Extensions of time may be obtained under 37 CFR 1.136(a). The date on which the petition under 37 CFR 1.136(a) and the appropriate extension fee have been filed is the date for purposes of determining the period of extension and the corresponding amount of the fee. The appropriate extension fee under 37 CFR 1.17(a) is calculated from: (1) the expiration date of the shortened statutory period for reply originally set in the final Office action; or (2) as set forth in (b) above, if checked. Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of the final rejection, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

1.  A Notice of Appeal was filed on \_\_\_\_\_. Appellant's Brief must be filed within the period set forth in 37 CFR 1.192(a), or any extension thereof (37 CFR 1.191(d)), to avoid dismissal of the appeal.

2.  The proposed amendment(s) will not be entered because:

- (a)  they raise new issues that would require further consideration and/or search (see NOTE below);
- (b)  they raise the issue of new matter (see Note below);
- (c)  they are not deemed to place the application in better form for appeal by materially reducing or simplifying the issues for appeal; and/or
- (d)  they present additional claims without canceling a corresponding number of finally rejected claims.

NOTE: See Continuation Sheet.

3.  Applicant's reply has overcome the following rejection(s): \_\_\_\_\_.  
 4.  Newly proposed or amended claim(s) \_\_\_\_ would be allowable if submitted in a separate, timely filed amendment canceling the non-allowable claim(s).  
 5.  The a) affidavit, b) exhibit, or c) request for reconsideration has been considered but does NOT place the application in condition for allowance because: See Continuation Sheet.

6.  The affidavit or exhibit will NOT be considered because it is not directed SOLELY to issues which were newly raised by the Examiner in the final rejection.

7.  For purposes of Appeal, the proposed amendment(s) a) will not be entered or b) will be entered and an explanation of how the new or amended claims would be rejected is provided below or appended.

The status of the claim(s) is (or will be) as follows:

Claim(s) allowed: \_\_\_\_\_.  
 Claim(s) objected to: \_\_\_\_\_.  
 Claim(s) rejected: 1-10, 12-19 and 22-26.  
 Claim(s) withdrawn from consideration: \_\_\_\_\_.  
 8.  The proposed drawing correction filed on \_\_\_\_ is a) approved or b) disapproved by the Examiner.  
 9.  Note the attached Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s).  
 10.  Other: \_\_\_\_\_.  
  
 GILBERTO BARRON  
 SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER  
 TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100

Continuation of 2. NOTE: The language of "included in a group of electronic data storage apparatuses" and "individual key is generated and distributed to said electronic data storage apparatus" in conjunction with the first claim requires new search and/or consideration.

Continuation of 5. does NOT place the application in condition for allowance because: : Kurado et al. (column 3, lines 29-30 and column 9, lines 29-31) discloses that each of the electronic data storage apparatus is provided with a unique individual key. Each data storage uses its own individual key to generate a data transfer request certificate and a storage certificate not encrypting data for the purpose of transmission to another data storage (column 8, lines 33-39). Kurado et al. discloses the use of a master key or a public key to encrypt and decrypt electronic data for transmission between storages (column 14, lines 49-52 and column 22, lines 53-55). Kurado et al also discloses (column 1, lines 44-55 and column 2, lines 31-40) that the security of stored data in the storage should be guaranteed. Implementing Kurado et al method of secure storage and transmission of electronic data in combination with the secure hierarchical group communication of Mitra meets the limitations of locally storing and globally transmitting electronic data.